



Michigan National Organization for Women

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September 9, 2009

Honorable Mark Meadows, Chair
Michigan House Judiciary Committee
Anderson House Office Building
Lansing, MI

Dear Representative Meadows and Members of the House Judiciary Committee:

Thank you for considering **House Bills 5155 – 5165, HCR 23, and HR 118 – 120 concerning women's reproductive health care and pregnancy prevention.**

These bills concern issues of life and death for women. NOW fully supports access to effective birth control and emergency contraception and to age-appropriate and comprehensive reproductive health services and education for all women. We support legislation and government regulation that would ensure access to the full range of reproductive health care that girls and women need.

The package of bills you are considering today, if passed and signed into law, support healthy families and commonsense reproductive health measures. **These bills address some of the barriers to complete reproductive health care that women and girls face in acquiring the reproductive health care information and services they need.**

We ask that you support by your **YES** vote on these bills:

- **Emergency contraception** for survivors of sexual assault in all emergency rooms in Michigan, regardless of the facility's religious affiliation (HB 5155)
- **Insurance coverage for birth control** where an insurance plan covers other prescriptions, **pap smears**, and **infertility treatments** (HBs 5156, 5157, 5159, 5160, 5161, 5162)
- **Fairness at the pharmacy** to prevent pharmacy refusals to fill birth control prescriptions (HB 5164 substitute)
- Medically accurate, age-appropriate, abstinence-plus **sex education in the schools** (HB 5163, 5165)
- **Teen pregnancy prevention** efforts (HR 119)
- Transparency and **accuracy of information at crisis pregnancy centers** (HB 5158 substitute)
- **Support of federal legislation** concerning reproductive health care (HR 118, HR 120)

The National Organization for Women (NOW) is the largest, most comprehensive, multi-issue feminist advocacy group in the United States. .

Michigan NOW thanks you for the opportunity to comment on these bills and resolutions.

Mary Pollock
Legislative Vice President
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NOW's purpose is to take action to bring women into full participation in the mainstream of American society now, exercising all privileges and responsibilities thereof in truly equal partnership with men.